

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the matter of the Transition Process for)	PS Docket No. 12-94
700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Waiver)	
Recipients.)	
)	
Submitted by)	
Adams County Communication Center, Inc)	

I. Background

On May 12, 2010, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) issued FCC 10-79 (“Waiver Order”), granting 21 jurisdictions permission to develop a public safety Long Term Evolution (“LTE”) data network using the 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum (763-768 MHz and 793-798 MHz). ADCOM 911 was one of these jurisdictions and began implementation of a Public Safety LTE network as outlined in the Waiver Order. On September 1, 2010, ADCOM 911 was awarded a Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (“BTOP”) grant through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”) to further develop the network across the entire jurisdiction covered by the waiver. Subsequently, on February 22, 2012, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Jobs Creation Act of 2012 (“Act”) was passed which:

- Allocated the “D-block” spectrum to public safety
- Established the First Responder Network Authority (“FirstNet”) to administer the spectrum license and develop the national broadband network
- Established a fund for network development

On April 6, 2012 the FCC issued DA 12-555 requesting comments on the transition of the license for the existing public safety and D-block spectrum to FirstNet.

The purpose of these comments is to express the opinions of ADCOM 911 as it relates to this license transfer.

II. Current LTE Public Safety Efforts

A. ADCOM 911 Specific Efforts

Since ADCOM 911 received the waiver, it has been a leader in developing a production quality LTE network for use by public safety. As stated, ADCOM 911 actively pursued and received a BTOP grant worth \$12.1 million to develop the

network. Subsequently, ADCOM 911 issued a competitive Request For Proposal for the LTE network and signed a contract with Raytheon to develop a countywide LTE network that is currently scheduled to go live in the spring of 2013. Some of the highlights of our work include:

- Completed the Environmental Analysis required by the BTOP program to ensure the project fits within the environmental standards set by the EPA.
- Designed all elements of the LTE and transport network to ensure a public safety grade network.
- Purchased all LTE, networking and microwave equipment required for the network.
- Completed a majority of the site development work required for the network.
- Expensed approximately \$6.5 million of BTOP funds and \$1.7 million of local funds towards the project.
- Worked with third-party public safety vendors (Intergraph, RadiolP) to begin the process of developing next generation public safety applications for LTE.

Additionally, as part of these efforts, we have actively worked with local public safety agencies to prepare for the LTE network and developed a strategy to implement LTE in a real-world public safety environment. Our agencies have begun to adjust their purchasing cycles and strategies to include LTE based equipment.

B. Additional Waiver Jurisdiction Accomplishments

The accomplishments discussed above have been duplicated by many other waiver jurisdictions. Specifically, the City of Charlotte, NC, The State of Mississippi and the State of Texas all have LTE Public Safety Networks that are planned to go into production within the next 12 months. Each of these networks will offer badly needed broadband data services to real-life first responders in the field. Additionally, these four jurisdictions have worked together to address some of the key technical, logistical and political issues that FirstNet will face in the development of the nation-wide network. This first-hand experience will be invaluable in ensuring the future expansion of the network goes smoothly.

In addition to these agencies, the additional BTOP recipients have all worked diligently and expended a tremendous amount of resources to get their projects designed and implemented. While some of the projects are not as developed as the early adopters identified above they each provide a unique learning opportunity for all involved in the national broadband network. All of these projects represent hundreds of millions of dollars worth of federal and local investment toward the national network that risk being stranded if the leases are not renewed.

Several other waiver recipients have also been instrumental in the progress achieved to date and ADCOM 911 would support their lease renewal as well. Several waiver recipients have identified alternative methods of funding and are prepared to begin development of their systems.

III. Overall ADCOM 911 Recommendation

Regarding the overarching question, should the FCC renew the leases, ADCOM 911's position is:

The FCC should immediately renew the existing leases with the PSST for any waiver recipient who has funding identified and/or made significant steps towards the implementation of a LTE network. This renewal should include the full 10MHz by 10 MHz (Band 14) and should be valid until such time that FirstNet, or an opt-out network as defined in the Act is capable of offering service to the first responders in the waiver jurisdictions service area. These leases should then be transferred intact with the license to FirstNet. Those who maintain their lease and develop an LTE network should be required to prove network interoperability as previously defined under the waiver requirements until such time as the interoperability requirements currently being developed by the Technical Advisory Board for First Responder Interoperability as defined by the Act can be implemented.

IV. Benefits of Renewing Leases and Continued Network Development

For each waiver recipient's jurisdiction there exists a crucial need for broadband services. Currently, ADCOM 911 is not able to utilize its full offering of services due to lack of bandwidth. Any realistic timeframe for FirstNet to offer service in these areas is at minimum two years away. In many cases, further delay in the availability of broadband services will place these agencies even farther behind in offering the services to first-responders required to achieve their mission of protecting the public and ensuring their own safety. Allowing these networks to go into production will also allow public safety software developers the opportunity to develop products that will recognize the benefits of LTE and therefore be functional by the time FirstNet stands up the national network.

In addition to the practical and operational benefits, the opportunity to develop smaller "test beds" of LTE development will prove invaluable to the future development of the national network. The lessons learned in such areas as site development, network design, multi-jurisdictional agreements and LTE equipment interoperability will be critical to integrate in the overall implementation plan developed by FirstNet. Local involvement will be crucial to the success of the

national network deployment and understanding these local issues now will help speed the larger network development.

In the public notice, the FCC poses the question “What would be the impact to FirstNet if the Commission did authorize these wavier recipients to enter into service?” (DA 12-555, p. 4)

ADCOM 911 believes renewing these leases will have no negative affect on the ability of FirstNet to develop a nationwide network. By requiring the early network developments to adhere to the interoperability both previously set forth by the FCC and the newly developed technical requirements all equipment can be integrated into the future national network. As an open standards based technology, FirstNet can simply design the national network using the existing infrastructure as a baseline. Having this infrastructure in place could even speed up the development of the national network in the regions they exist.

V. Potential Impact of Not Renewing the Lease

If the FCC does not transfer the lease of both ADCOM 911 and other early builders will incur significant harm both financially and politically. As stated, ADCOM 911, and other early adopters have spent significant resources on these developments and have made great progress. Abandoning these efforts will result in millions of dollars of being wasted. Additionally, as these early adopters have helped create a great deal of momentum for public safety adoption of LTE the delay of implementation for up to two years would cause significant damage to first responders belief in the technology. The demand for broadband data within public safety is growing by the day. Providing an opportunity for those jurisdictions who have worked diligently to ensure the promises of broadband become reality will help ensure not only the success of the individual projects but the national network as well.